



OFBCI News

Where service and volunteerism happen!

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor

James F. Huston, Executive Director

March 22, 2012

4,967 and rising: how Hoosiers are helping fellow Hoosiers



As [reported by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security](#), there have been more than 4,967 volunteers helping with the recovery efforts in southern Indiana after the Tornado struck on May 2. The challenge though, is that it will take many, many more to complete the work that needs to be done there.

The volunteer information has been tracked by the Metro United Way, the Indiana Association of United Ways, and Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

On behalf of the OFBCI, thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve during this time of need!

To volunteer, you may consider connecting with the [Indiana Association of United Ways](#) or contact a member of the [Indiana VOAD](#).

Increase impact: organize volunteers to aid long-term recovery in southern Indiana

You may plan with a group at your place of worship or community organization. You may make calls, send emails, or you may have even created a video like the Christian Emergency Network of Indiana has done. Hoosiers can tackle the needs of southern Indiana, but it requires a willingness and a little bit of planning.

The Indiana OFBCI would like to invite Hoosiers of all faiths and affiliations to share your plan with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We've heard stories about the needs -- are you up to the challenge?

Quick Links:

[Indiana OFBCI](#)

[One Stop Shop](#)

[AmeriCorps Indiana](#)

[State of Indiana](#)

Community events:

- Mar. 29 - [Ethics in Community Engaged Research workshop](#)
- Apr. 5 - [ICCSV Board Meeting](#)
- Apr. 22 - [Earth Day Celebration at the Jewish Cultural Center in Indy](#)
- Apr. 25 - [MCCOY Speed dating for early intervention & prevention service providers](#)
- Apr. 27 - [Early registration ends for Neighborhoods USA conference](#)
- May 11 - [Deadline to nominate for UWCI Diversity Volunteer Awards](#)
- May 15 - [Scholarship deadline for AmeriCorps alumni \(to attend the Monterrey Institute\)](#)



Nominate someone you know for a Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism

With so much good being accomplished in Indiana communities in so many ways, it is with much gratitude that the INOFBCI officially opens the nomination process for the 2012 Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism.

The Governor's Service Awards are the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives' most prestigious award for volunteer service. The INOFBCI will be seeking nominations for recipients and readers can help in several ways.

Nominate someone you know. Honorees will be recognized for outstanding volunteer contributions to causes that include health care, neighborhood revitalization, youth and senior activities, the arts, education, justice, housing, nutrition and social services.

Spread the word. Whether you tweet about it, post [the award page](#) on friends' Facebook walls, email the opportunity to friends and community organizations, or call others who serve their fellow Hoosiers, it is our goal to reach every corner of the state and to recognize the outstanding crop of Hoosiers who give back.

Help with conference sponsorship. The Governor's Conference is built around lifting up service and volunteerism, networking, and exploring best practices for serving the community by making the most of our abilities. Given the nature of the conference, the INOFBCI is always looking for sponsors to help underwrite the costs of the event. Whether you are able to connect the INOFBCI to a potential corporation or philanthropist, or are able to commit to registering attendees, it helps ensure that the conference is a success.

[Click here to learn more about the nomination process](#) and stay tuned for more details about the 2012 conference.

How COAD helped prepare southern Indiana for disaster recovery

by Steve Cain

For the recent disaster recovery efforts, it is hard to overstate the value of the Southern Indiana [COAD](#). In a significant way, it helped establish a network of people who were acquainted before disaster

- Jun. 9 - [Walking for Dreams local nonprofit benefit](#)

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Our Programs:



struck. It's hard to know how much that matters until you're in the thick of the storms and the wreckage thereafter.

When I walked into the Emergency Operations Center, I didn't have to be introduced. The Emergency Manager knew me and what the Indiana VOAD offered. In addition, we had a ready-made distribution list of local leaders who came together very quickly to help form the long-term recovery organizations.

Is there room for improvement? Yes. The COADs in Indiana have not had the time to figure out what in-depth training they need to increase skill-sets and methodology in coordinating efforts. But now, through this test, this COAD has a greater appreciation for what training they need.

There are many lessons to be learned from the first Indiana disaster recovery with a COAD that existed at least partially in the affected area. We look forward to making the most of this opportunity to learn and help this community return to normalcy.

Steve Cain is the Chairman of [Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(Indiana VOAD\)](#)

First Lady Cheri Daniels leads food drive to new heights

Indiana First Lady Cheri Daniels, her staff, and participating state government agencies have amassed an astounding 118,100 nonperishable food products and over \$19,000 benefiting Indiana families through [Gleaners Food Bank](#).

Though OFBCI only has a staff of eight people, we were proud to contribute over 100 nonperishable items.



To learn more about the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive and IndiCANa, please click [here](#).



News that is useful to you:

If you would like to see something in the OFBCI News, please email Derek at:

DTrovillion@ofbci.in.gov

AmeriCorps*Week at a glance



Pictured above: a bulletin board promoting AmeriCorps' ethic of service and volunteerism at the [Robinson Community Learning Center](#) in South Bend.

Pictured below: An AmeriCorps member works through the [YMCA of Greater Indianapolis](#), and helps with afterschool education at the Laurelwood Community center



*Click [here](#) to learn more about [AmeriCorps*Indiana](#) or [here to read more about AmeriCorps*Week](#).*

Going beyond a virtual One Stop Shop

Part of the past few weeks' disaster relief efforts involved bringing state government resources closest to the tornado victims who needed it. The OFBCI was privileged to be part of this effort.

State agencies' representatives were present in affected communities like Sellersburg (thank you to Ivy Tech Community College), New Pekin, and Holton. Those agency representatives provided everything from vouchers for food and clothing to BMV documentation replacement to insurance policy navigation assistance, and many other services as well. The OFBCI provided agency referral assistance as people tried to figure out where they needed to go for help.



Though this was tailored to disaster recovery assistance, readers may recognize the

concept: OFBCI's virtual [One Stop Shop](#), which connects nonprofits to grant, training, volunteer, and contract information, is modeled off this method of locating a medium and providing myriad opportunities for a particular audience.
